

Batch Script - Aliases

Aliases means creating shortcuts or keywords for existing commands. Suppose if we wanted to execute the below command which is nothing but the directory listing command with the /w option to not show all of the necessary details in a directory listing.

```
Dir /w
```

Suppose if we were to create a shortcut to this command as follows.

```
dw = dir /w
```

When we want to execute the **dir /w** command, we can simply type in the word **dw**. The word 'dw' has now become an alias to the command Dir /w.

Creating an Alias

Alias are managed by using the **doskey** command.

Syntax

```
DOSKEY [options] [macroname=[text]]
```

Wherein

- **macroname** – A short name for the macro.
- **text** – The commands you want to recall.

Following are the description of the options which can be presented to the DOSKEY command.

S.No.	Options & Description
1.	/REINSTALL Installs a new copy of Doskey
2.	/LISTSIZE = size Sets size of command history buffer.
3.	/MACROS Displays all Doskey macros.
4.	/MACROS:ALL Displays all Doskey macros for all executables which have Doskey macros.
5.	/MACROS:exename Displays all Doskey macros for the given executable.
6.	/HISTORY Displays all commands stored in memory.
7.	/INSERT Specifies that new text you type is inserted in old text.
8.	/OVERSTRIKE Specifies that new text overwrites old text.
9.	/EXENAME = exename Specifies the executable.
10.	/MACROFILE = filename Specifies a file of macros to install.
11.	macroname

	Specifies a name for a macro you create.
12.	<p>text</p> <p>Specifies commands you want to record.</p>

Example

Create a new file called keys.bat and enter the following commands in the file. The below commands creates two aliases, one if for the cd command, which automatically goes to the directory called test. And the other is for the dir command.

```
@echo off
doskey cd = cd/test
doskey d = dir
```

Once you execute the command, you will able to run these aliases in the command prompt.

Output

The following screenshot shows that after the above created batch file is executed, you can freely enter the 'd' command and it will give you the directory listing which means that your alias has been created.

The screenshot shows a Windows Command Prompt window titled "Administrator: C:\Windows\system32\cmd.exe". The prompt is at "C:\ntp>". The user has entered the 'd' command, which triggers the alias defined in keys.bat. The output shows the directory listing for C:\ntp, including files like Keys.bat, Lists.cmd, and newdir, and the results of the dir command.

```
C:\ntp>d
Volume in drive C is Windows8_OS
Volume Serial Number is E41C-6F43

Directory of C:\ntp

01/04/2016  02:57 AM    <DIR>          .
01/04/2016  02:57 AM    <DIR>          ..
01/04/2016  02:57 AM                34 Keys.bat
01/04/2016  02:58 AM                28 Lists.cmd
12/28/2015  10:13 PM    <DIR>          newdir
12/28/2015  10:13 PM    <DIR>          newdir1
12/28/2015  10:13 PM    <DIR>          newdir2
                2 File(s)                62 bytes
                5 Dir(s)  161,492,418,560 bytes free

C:\ntp>_
```

Deleting an Alias

An alias or macro can be deleted by setting the value of the macro to NULL.

Example

```
@echo off
doskey cd = cd/test
doskey d = dir
d=
```

In the above example, we are first setting the macro d to d = dir. After which we are setting it to NULL. Because we have set the value of d to NULL, the macro d will be deleted.

Replacing an Alias

An alias or macro can be replaced by setting the value of the macro to the new desired value.

Example

```
@echo off
doskey cd = cd/test
doskey d = dir

d = dir /w
```

In the above example, we are first setting the macro d to d = dir. After which we are setting it to dir /w. Since we have set the value of d to a new value, the alias 'd' will now take on the new value.